

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**FILED**

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Order Instituting Rulemaking to Establish a  
Framework and Processes for Assessing the  
Affordability of Utility Service.

Rulemaking 18-07-006  
(Filed July 12, 2018)

**MOTION OF THE NATIONAL DIVERISTY COALITION AND NATIONAL ASIAN  
AMERICAN COALITION FOR PARTY STATUS**

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**NATIONAL  
DIVERSITY  
COALITION**

August 22, 2018

# **MOTION OF THE NATIONAL DIVERSITY COALITION AND NATIONAL ASIAN AMERICAN COALITION FOR PARTY STATUS**

## **I. Introduction**

Pursuant to Rule 1.4(a)(4) of the California Public Utilities Commission’s (“CPUC” or “Commission”) Rules of Practice and Procedure, the National Diversity Coalition<sup>1</sup> (“NDC”) and National Asian American Coalition (“NAAC”) hereby respectfully request to be granted party status in the above captioned proceeding. Pursuant to Rule 1.4(b), NDC and NAAC provide a statement of the entities and interests we represent and a statement of factual and legal contentions.

## **II. Background and Statement of Interest**

The National Diversity Coalition is a coalition of non-profit organizations, churches, minority business chambers, and other community-based organizations that serve the minority community, which is predominantly low-income. On behalf of low-income minority ratepayers and small business owners, NDC advocates before State and Federal regulatory and legislative agencies. The mission of NDC is to promote greater economic equality for underserved people by advocating for reasonable banking and corporate regulation, greater homeownership resources, small business support, and financial literacy.

The National Asian American Coalition provides homeownership education and assistance to low-income minority communities. NAAC has counseled over 9,000 California homeowners in

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<sup>1</sup> National Diversity Coalition members include the National Asian American Coalition (NAAC), Advancing the Seed, Inc., African American Chamber of Commerce, African American Fire Fighter Museum, Asian Business Association, Asian Journal, Boys of Color of Santa Ana, Community Connections LLC, COR Community Development Corporation, El Mundo, Impact Southern California, Instituto de Avance Latino, Island Pacific Supermarkets, The Jesse Miranda Center for Hispanic Leadership, Korean American Coalition LA, Latino Coalition for Community Leadership, Los Angeles Latino Chamber of Commerce, Macedonia Community Development Corporation, Network of Myanmar American Association, Santa Maria Group, OASIS Center International, Templo Calvario CDC, and Youth Business USA. In numerous prior proceedings before this Commission, NDC members have appeared under the name “Joint Minority Parties”. In this proceeding, both NDC and NAAC seek party status.

distress, provides microloans and technical assistance and capacity-building workshops for small minority-owned businesses, and educates ratepayers on cost saving, conservation, and safety programs available through the regulated utilities. NAAC has offices in both northern and southern California, and operates manned kiosks in the Island Pacific chain of supermarkets to further reach minority communities throughout the western United States and in Southern California. Additionally, NAAC produces a weekly prime time television program that reaches 3.8 million Californians, and highlights issues of importance to minority and low-income Californians, including homeownership, clean energy, utility rate increases, and wealth inequality.

NDC and NAAC bring the voice and concerns of minority ratepayers, who make up the majority of California's population, to the discussion in these proceedings, and look to the Commission to protect them from unreasonable and excessive continual increases in the costs of essential utility services. NDC and NAAC provide a unique grassroots perspective, gained from providing direct services in low-income minority communities, which will aid the Commission's decision making process.

### **III. FACTUAL AND LEGAL CONTENTIONS**

NDC and NAAC intend to be active parties in this proceeding.

At this early stage, NDC and NAAC have not determined exactly what factual and legal contentions we intend to make. However, our analyses and contentions will be limited to the scope established in the OIR and in any subsequent scoping memo. Our intention is to provide research, insight, and recommendations on affordability assessment frameworks and criteria, and how they will impact low-income minority communities.

#### **IV. SERVICE AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Service of notices, orders, and other correspondence in this proceeding should be directed to the following:

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Party: National Diversity Coalition; National Asian American Coalition

NDC and NAAC request to be noted on the service list as “email service only”.

#### **V. Conclusion**

NDC and NAAC’s participation in this proceeding will not prejudice any party, as the proceeding is still in its initial stages. For the reasons stated above, NDC and NAAC respectfully request that the Commission grant this motion for party status.

August 22, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Tadashi Gondai

Attorney for  
NATIONAL DIVERSITY COALITION and  
NATIONAL ASIAN AMERICAN COALITION